



Delaware Foster Child Earns Admission to Prestigious Hershey School

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Wilmington – In its first partnership with the State, the prestigious Milton Hershey School (Hershey, Pa.) has offered admission to a foster child from Delaware. As the largest boarding school in the United States, MHS has been in operation for almost a century and currently serves 1,300 boys and girls in grades K-12 from families with the greatest financial and social needs. First to be considered for admission to MHS are children in foster care.

Jacob, the twelve-year-old foster child from New Castle County, will enter the seventh grade at MHS and will live in a house with nine other middle school aged children and two house parents. He will have daily assigned chores, attend school and chose from dozens of activities ranging from his favorite sport – basketball to learning to play a musical instrument. Jacob will be able to maintain contact with his siblings and foster mother with transportation provided by MHS. He will also be able to receive guests.

“We could not pass up the chance to give our kids in care access to the great educational and life opportunities the Milton Hershey School offers.” said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. “When I was asked to help Jacob, I immediately wrote a letter of support urging his admission. He worked so hard to raise his report card grades, he deserved to have this chance.”

Ninety-three percent of students who graduate MHS go on to attend two or four year school programs with the entire tuition paid for by the Milton Hershey Foundation. If a graduate chooses vocational training, it is also paid for. The entire MHS program is free of charge to the children, their families or the state.

“This is such a wonderful example of our guiding philosophy—embrace a child’s strengths while maintaining focus on the family,” said Children’s Department Cabinet Secretary, Cari DeSantis. “It shows that everyone involved in making this possible for Jacob was truly ‘thinking of the child first’ with their actions, and we look forward to watching him thrive at his new school and in his new life.”

On any given day, the Children’s Department provides services to approximately 8,200 children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids/>.